

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 06MANAGUA1333, MANY NICARAGUAN EVANGELICALS WANT TO SUPPORT

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06MANAGUA1333**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">06MANAGUA1333</a>	<a href="#">2006-06-19 14:47</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Managua</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758456.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758467.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758468.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758464.aspx>  
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<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3966/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-ee-uu-en-el-2006>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2758764.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2758753.aspx>  
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<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4047/rodrigo-barreto-enviado-de-ldquo-vacaciones-rdquo>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2757239.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2746658.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2757244.aspx>  
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2746673.aspx>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3991/dra-yadira-centeno-desmiente-cable-diplomatico-eeuu>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3968/pellas-pronostico-a-eeuu-victoria-de-ortega-en-2006>  
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3967/barreto-era-ldquo-fuente-confiable-rdquo-para-eeuu>

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RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0707  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 001333

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DEPT FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/15/2016  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SOCI](#) [KDEM](#) [KIRF](#) [NU](#)  
SUBJECT: MANY NICARAGUAN EVANGELICALS WANT TO SUPPORT  
MONTEALEGRE, IF HE WILL REACH OUT TO THEM

Classified By: Ambassador Paul Trivelli for reasons 1.4 (b and d)

11. (C) Summary: Many leaders of the evangelical community in Nicaragua prefer ALN presidential candidate Eduardo Montealegre as the best option to lead Nicaragua after the November elections. Most feel, however, that Montealegre has not done enough to promote evangelical candidates and politicians within the ALN -- especially current National Assembly Delia Arellano, who was allotted a "losing" position on the ALN's list for national deputies. The evangelicals stated that Camino Cristiano leader Guillermo Osorno has lost respect and influence within the evangelical community because of his alliance with the PLC, and FSLN vice presidential candidate Jaime Morales Carazo has cost that party considerable evangelical support due to his outspoken support of prejudicial laws in the National Assembly. One leader complained that the Bolanos administration favors Catholic clergy over evangelicals. Despite their formal non-partisan affiliation at the institutional level, evangelical leaders are clearly anti-Sandinista and ready to encourage their followers to support a democratic candidate. End Summary.

12. (SBU) Ambassador and poloffs conducted a series of recent meetings with different evangelical groups to discuss the upcoming national elections. Most of the pastors expressed a preference for ALN presidential candidate Eduardo Montealegre, but commented that they would be more motivated in their efforts to support him if he would promote more evangelical candidates within the ALN. The evangelical leaders claimed that 30-40 percent of Nicaraguans now identify themselves as evangelical. A brief demographic summary of each evangelical organization follows:

- EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE: The Evangelical Alliance has over 80 member institutions from most evangelical denominations. The directors of the Alliance claim that its member organizations represent 70-80 percent of all evangelicals in Nicaragua.

- NICARAGUAN PASTORS' ASSOCIATION (APANIC): APANIC is a 10 year-old organization that has over 70 active evangelical pastors from various denominations in its membership. APANIC is based in Managua, where it draws most of its membership, but includes pastors from throughout Nicaragua.

- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL PASTORS: The Council is an umbrella organization that includes more than 400 pastors representing all evangelical denominations in Nicaragua. Council members are present in 122 of Nicaragua's 152 municipalities.

MANY EVANGELICAL LEADERS PREFER EDUARDO, BUT...

13. (C) All of the groups expressed some degree of support for Eduardo Montealegre as the most appropriate candidate for the presidency. APANIC leader Jairo Hernandez commented that APANIC will publicly declare its support for Montealegre's candidacy and is discussing with his campaign managers the best timing for the pronouncement. Evangelical Alliance leaders initially seemed tepid in their support for Montealegre during a June 8 meeting with Emboffs, but came out more strongly in favor in a meeting with the Ambassador on June 12. Alliance leader Leonel Ubeda noted that they had ongoing contact with Montealegre through evangelical members of the ALN, particularly National Assembly deputy Delia Arellano. In contrast, President of the National Council of Evangelical Pastors Mario Espinoza stated that Montealegre does not maintain close ties with evangelical churches and that evangelicals in general have not yet defined a presidential candidate that they favor.

14. (C) Ubeda expressed concern that evangelicals, including Arellano, are not more strongly represented in winning positions on the ALN's deputy lists. (Note: Arellano is currently in the ninth position on the ALN's national deputy list, a long-shot position at best. End Note.) APANIC leaders Hernandez and Jaime Sierra commented that they would like to see Arellano moved into the fourth or fifth position and to see more evangelicals in general in positions of influence within the ALN. Sierra generally complained about the ALN deputy lists, saying they should reflect the outcome of the ALN primaries and not horse trading with the allied parties and the Bolanos Administration.

OSORNO HAS LOST INFLUENCE IN EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY

15. (C) The evangelical leaders agreed that Camino Cristiano head and current PLC deputy candidate Reverend Guillermo Osorno has lost much of his influence in the evangelical community for "selling out" to the corrupt PLC. Alliance leader Danilo Ortiz noted that Osorno is president of one of the Alliance's member organizations (the Assembly of God) and respected as such, but "the group is disappointed with his decision" to join the PLC. Sierra stated that Osorno "chose the wrong path" and can no longer claim to represent any evangelicals outside of his own denomination. (Note: Osorno, previously a vociferous opponent of the FSLN-PLC pact, recently told the press that the pact allowed the National Assembly to function efficiently. End Note.)

MORALES CARAZO HURTING FSLN WITH EVANGELICALS

16. (C) FSLN vice presidential candidate and current National Assembly deputy Jaime Morales Carazo was subjected to even stronger censure from the evangelical leaders for his promotion of "noise pollution" laws in the Assembly that would have shut down evening services for many evangelical denominations. The Alliance leaders laughed when poloff mentioned that Morales renounced his previous position as "wrong" after receiving the FSLN nomination. Sierra and Hernandez both agreed that Morales is "completely rejected" by the evangelical community.

BOLANOS FAVORS CATHOLICS

17. (C) Mario Espinoza complained that the Bolanos administration has "remained distant" from evangelicals, despite strong evangelical support in the last election. He claimed that Catholic clergy are given open access at airports to enter the country, whereas evangelicals are subject to luggage searches and other formalities. He also referred to subsidies that the state allegedly provides to Catholic cultural and other facilities and wants evangelicals to have the same access and clout that he claims the Catholic

clergy currently enjoys.

COMMENT: EDUARDO SHOULD COURT EVANGELICALS

18. (C) The evangelical leaders emphasized the fact that they have considerable and growing influence throughout Nicaragua, especially in poor, remote areas -- places where the traditional parties retain their strength. For that reason, poloffs advised Montealegre's close advisors take into account the evangelicals' concerns, specifically by offering Arellano a better deal, not only because she has influence in the evangelical community, but because she is one of the few deputies who actually works for the people of Nicaragua in the Assembly. Working against Delia Arellano is the fact that her joining Montealegre was a personal, not a party decision, and thus she does not enjoy the backing of a political entity to lobby for a more favorable position on the National Assembly candidate list.

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